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The Chrysochloridæ include only the five species of the typical genus, and are limited to Africa south of the Equator. Although formed for digging, the modifications of the body and limbs for this purpose are quite different from those of the Talpidæ, since the former have long clavicles and a hollowed-out thorax instead of short clavicles and a lengthened manubrium.

The family Talpidæ includes twelve genera and eighteen species and has a wide distribution in the Palæarctic, Nearctic and northern part of the Oriental regions. Though most are fossorial, some (*Myogale*) are natatorial, or (*Uropsilus*) cursorial, but all agree in the remarkable peculiarity of a double articulation of the humerus with the scapula and clavicle. The incisors, canines and premolars vary extremely in form, but the molars are uniform in number ( $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ ), and nearly so in shape. The fossorial habits of the Talpidæ are correlated, in the fore-limbs, with an elongated manubrium and small quadrate clavicles, and, in the hinder, by an inward curvature of the os innominata. This is carried to such an extent in some species (*Mogera vogura*, e. g.) that the bones meet between the acetabula. The genera are distinguished principally by the teeth.

The anatomy of *Gymnura*, *Erinaceus*, the Centetidæ, *Solenodon*, *Mythomys* *Chrysochlora*, *Myogale* and the typical moles, is given in detail, with special attention to the myology, a department too much neglected in the majority of monographs. The two parts are illustrated with twenty-two well executed plates, thirteen of which are colored, and are principally designed to illustrate the muscular system.

COUES' KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.<sup>1</sup>—When the reviewer finds himself face to face with the completed work of an acknowledged master, with a work which embodies the results of a lifetime of discovery, observation and research, it seems superfluous to praise, and envious to criticise. The only course left is to succinctly describe the contents, and, in this case, to compare with the older Key, of which the present is an amplification. The original volume, published in October, 1872, formed an imperial octavo of 361 pages, illustrated with 238 wood-cuts and six steel plates. The present volume contains 863 pages, besides thirty in the historical preface, and is illustrated with 561 wood-cuts. The species, including binomials and trinomials, are 878 in number. The work consists of four parts. Part 1 contains, with some little amplification, the matter originally published separately under the title of "Field Ornithology," and is a manual of instruction for collecting, preparing and preserving birds. Invaluable as the advice of one whose life has been largely occupied in the pro-

<sup>1</sup> Key to North American Birds, containing a concise account of every living and fossil bird at present known from the continent north of the Mexican and United States boundary, inclusive of Greenland. By ELLIOTT COUES, M.A., M.D., Ph.D. Boston: Estes & Laureat, 1884.

cesses he describes, it is rendered still more so by the clearness and simplicity of the directions, and by the thoroughly sensible hygienic advice accompanying it. Part II consists of the introductory matter of the old Key, very greatly amplified, and forms a kind of "Closet Ornithology" as distinguished from a "Field Ornithology." In it are explained the technical terms in use among ornithologists; and the structure of the external and internal parts, including nerves, muscles, lungs and lung-sacs, and digestive organs, as well as osteology, is extensively entered into. This part contains also a treatise on oölogy, and concludes with artificial keys to the orders and families, and a tabular view of the classification. Part III, the main body of the work, describes all the species and subspecies of North American birds at present known, defines the genera, and characterizes the families and higher groups. The descriptions are much more elaborate than those of the old Key, but the amplification has been made solely with the aim of facilitating the identification of specimens. Although some descriptions are taken from the author's *Birds of the Colorado Valley*, *Birds of the Northwest*, etc., by far the greater part of the matter here contained is new. Scarcely any of the older work is left unaltered. The references to authorities, which, in the old Key, closed the descriptive paragraphs, are omitted, and the space thus gained is utilized for references to the nest and eggs, song, flight, migratory or other habits of the species, so as to epitomize the life-history. Geographical distribution is prominently and thoroughly treated, and considerable attention has been paid to descriptions of the plumage of females and of young birds. The specific names are marked for accent. Part IV is short, but is a valuable synopsis of the known fossil birds of North America, forty-six species in all.

Many of the engravings of the former edition have been discarded and replaced by better. About fifty are from Brehm's *Thierleben*, near as many more from Dixon's *Rural Bird Life*, a few from the *Proceedings of the Zoölogical Society of London*, and from D. G. Elliot's *Birds of America*, about fifty from drawings by Mr. Edwin Shepherd, and many from those made by the author. About thirty anatomical drawings were furnished by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, and Mr. R. Ridgway and Mr. H. W. Elliot have given others.—*W. N. L.*

MANUAL OF THE MOSSES OF NORTH AMERICA.<sup>1</sup>—For many years those botanists who have not been content to study flowering plants alone have been looking for a good manual of the mosses of the country. The little work by Sullivant which was bound in with one of the editions of Gray's *Manual* had long since not only gone out of print and become difficult to procure,

<sup>1</sup> *Manual of the Mosses of North America*. By Leo Lesquereux and Thomas P. James, with six plates illustrating the Genera. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Company, 1884. 8vo, pp. vi, 447, 6 pl.